

PRESS RELEASE



Manhattan Beach Unified School District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Initial Comments on 2016 CAASPP Results

Manhattan Beach, CA, August 24, 2016

Today, the California Department of Education released the results of the second-ever California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson stated, “The higher test scores show that the dedication, hard work, and patience of California’s teachers, parents, school employees, and administrators are paying off. Together we are making progress towards upgrading our education system to prepare all students for careers and college in the 21st century.”

The following table reflects the percentage of MBUSD students in grades 3-8 and 11 who received a score of “meets or exceeds standards” on last spring’s tests:

Percent of Standards Met or Exceeded by MBUSD Students

Grade Level	ELA	Math
3	86%	85%
4	88%	82%
5	82%	74%
6	82%	75%
7	83%	71%
8	78%	61%
11	74%	64%
Overall MBUSD	82%	73%
Overall State of CA	49%	37%

MBUSD ELA scores were up by 1% from 2015, while MBUSD Math scores increased by 2%. MBUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Matthews commented, “In this second year of CAASPP testing, we are pleased to see growth in our students’ achievement, both in English Language Arts and Math. It is difficult to assess any trends after two years, but we are particularly encouraged to see strong growth in secondary math achievement.”

MBUSD Board President Ellen Rosenberg added, “**Building students’ conceptual understanding and proficiency in the application of mathematics** has been the top goal for the Board since 2014. This year, we are proud to have some of our own teachers serving in math leadership roles, as the Board and the District continue our focus on math teaching and learning.”

Dr. Brett Geithman, Executive Director of Educational Services commented, “The 2015-16 year was an incredible year of implementing the new math curriculum. Our teachers worked incredibly hard to learn the new standards, and adapt new materials. The fact that our scores improved in a year of such transition speaks volumes about our teachers and their efforts.”

“These positive results are based on a new college and career readiness assessment that is online, and expects students to demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills unlike the old, multiple choice tests they replace,” said State Board of Education President Mike Kirst.

MBUSD has not yet received individual student scores. They will be mailed home after the District receives them. The District estimates that parents will receive their children’s scores in mid-October. The California Department of Education (CDE) advises parents to not make comparisons with prior STAR tests of the same subject area. The CDE further supported this position by suspending its annual accountability score (API) through this school year.

“In terms of next steps,” Dr. Matthews added, “we believe these data justify all of the Board’s instructional goals. We plan to remain focused on our current goals of continuous improvement in mathematics, reading and writing instruction. I applaud our teachers and our instructional leaders for the incredible amount of work they have dedicated toward this improvement, and I look forward to studying the data further to see where we excel, and where we can continue to improve.”

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ABOUT THE MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MBUSD serves approximately 6,800 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Robinson Elementary School and Grand View Elementary School were recently recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2013. Six MBUSD schools have been honored as California Gold Ribbon Schools since 2015. In 2012, Grand View Elementary was named a National Green Ribbon School, joining just 77 other schools in the United States so honored that year. In 2016, MBUSD was named as a National Green Ribbon District. MBUSD’s Michael Hayden and Maggie Mabery were the *California* Teachers of the Year in 2015 and 2016. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with community partners such as the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation, PTAs/PTSAs, MBX—Beyond the Classroom, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.